

WILLMAR CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BOARD ROOM
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING
WILLMAR, MINNESOTA

December 5, 2022
6:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Willmar City Council was called to order by Mayor Marv Calvin. Members present on a roll call were Mayor Marv Calvin, Council Members Rick Fagerlie, Julie Asmus, Thomas Butterfield, Michael O'Brien, Justin Ask, Vicki Davis, Andrew Plowman, and Audrey Nelsen. Present 9, Absent 0.

Also present were City Administrator Leslie Valiant, City Operations Director Kyle Box, Police Chief Jim Felt, Finance Director Steve Okins, Fire Chief Frank Hanson, Planning and Development Services Director Justice Walker, Human Resource Director LuAnn Sietsema, City Clerk Judy Thompson and City Attorney Robert Scott.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Council Member Fagerlie moved to approve the agenda. Council Member Nelsen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

City Clerk Thompson reviewed the consent agenda.

- A. City Council Minutes of November 21, 2022
- B. Willmar Municipal Utilities Board Minutes of November 28, 2022
- C. Accounts Payable Report for November 17 through November 28, 2022
- ~~D. **Resolution** – Consideration of Designating Polling Places for Elections 2023~~
- E. Consider Approval of the First Amendment to Agricultural Land Lease Agreements
- F. 2023 Flaherty & Hood Rate Schedule

Council Member Butterfield offered a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Ask asked that Item D. be removed for discussion. Council Member Fagerlie seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda, with the removal of Item D., which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

Council Member Ask expressed his concern with Ward 3, Precinct 1 voting outside their Ward, and offered a motion to table this item and brought back to the December 19th Council meeting with possible locations within said Ward. Council Member O'Brien seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

There was no one present to speak during the Open Forum.

At 6:34 p.m., Mayor Calvin opened the Truth in Taxation public hearing. Finance Director Steve Okins stated the Mayor presented his proposed budget in September in the amount of \$55,694,526 and set the proposed tax levy at \$9,188,990. This represents a \$1,875,318 increase over 2022. He also shared the various tax rates of surrounding local and regional cities.

Ashley Standfuss, 600 9th Street SW, addressed the Mayor and Council with concerns regarding the increase in property value for her property. Mayor Calvin stated this hearing is for taxes only, and she should contact the County Assessor's Office regarding the valuation increase on her property.

Kirk VanderPol, 815 Kandiyohi Avenue SW, addressed the Mayor and Council with concerns regarding the proposed property tax increase and spoke against the proposed increase.

Joe Ridler, 1912 20th Avenue SW, addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the proposed property tax increase and spoke against the proposed increase.

Ron Buchanan, 412 13th Street NE, addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the proposed property tax increase.

There being no others to speak for or against the proposed levy, Mayor Calvin closed the public hearing at 7:09 p.m. and opened it up for discussion by the Council. Following discussion, **Resolution No. 2022-152 Establishing the 2023 Tax Levy** was introduced by Council Member Fagerlie. Council Member Nelsen seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

Resolution No. 2022-153 Adopting the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2023 was introduced by Council Member Fagerlie. Council Member Ask seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

At 7:18 p.m. Mayor Calvin opened the public hearing for an ordinance amendment regulating the removal of snow, ice, dirt, and rubbish from public sidewalks and private streets. City Operations Director Box provided the pertinent information to the Mayor and Council.

There being no one present to speak for or against the said amendment, Mayor Calvin closed the public hearing at 7:19 p.m. and opened it up for discussion by the Council. Following discussion, Council Member Plowman offered a motion to adopt, assign a number, and publish **Ordinance No. 1494, An Ordinance Regulating the Removal of Snow, Ice, Dirt, and Rubbish From Public Sidewalks and Private Streets**. Council Member Nelsen seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

Contracted City Engineer Jared Voge presented a request to adopt a resolution of support for the pursuit of active transportation infrastructure funding for the 19th Avenue Trail Improvements. He noted if the application is successful, construction would occur in 2023 or 2024. The trail would be on the south side of 19th Avenue from 15th Avenue SW to 5th Street SE, and trail would be constructed in place of the existing sidewalk and create a safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle corridor between businesses, schools, and the southern portion of the community.

Following discussion, **Resolution No. 2022-154 Supporting the Pursuit of Active Transportation Infrastructure Funding for 19th Avenue Trail Improvements** was introduced by Council Member Nelsen. Council Member Asmus seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

Human Resources Director Sietsema presented a request to set the 2023 health insurance premium for non-union employees at \$31.34 a month for a single plan, and \$83.66 a month for a family plan.

Council Member Fagerlie offered a motion to approve staff's request. Council Member Asmus seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mayor Calvin offered the following comments: Congratulated City Administrator Valiant on her recent appointment to the Ridgewater Foundation Board.

Council Member Plowman offered the following comments: "Kudos" to the Willmar Municipal Utilities employees who responded quickly to restore power following an accident that occurred earlier today, and continuing to work into the evening to make the necessary structural repairs.

At 7:27 p.m., Council Member Fagerlie offered a motion to enter into a closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05, subd.3(c). Council Member Davis seconded the motion, which carried.

At 7:46 p.m., the Council returned to open session.

Council Member Ask offered a motion to adjourn the meeting, with Council Member Nelsen seconding the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

/s/ Marv Calvin
MAYOR

Attest:

/s/ Judy Thompson
SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-152

ESTABLISHING THE 2023 TAX LEVY

Motion By: Fagerlie Second By: Nelsen

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota, that the following sums of money be levied for the current year collectable in 2023, upon the taxable property in said City of Willmar for the following purposes:

General Fund	\$6,085,290
Street Improvement Fund	\$ 699,674
City Hall Debt	<u>\$ 524,755</u>
Total	\$9,188,990

BE IT RESOLVED, that there is a sufficient sum of money in the Debt Service Funds of the City, together with the above Debt Service Fund Tax Levy, to pay principal and interest in 2023 on all outstanding bond issues, and the deferred annual tax levies previously certified to the County Auditor are hereby canceled;

The City Clerk is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the County Auditor of Kandiyohi County, Minnesota.

Dated this 5th day of December, 2022

/s/ Marv Calvin
MAYOR

Attest:

/s/ Judy Thompson
CITY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-153

ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023

Motion By: Fagerlie Second By: Ask

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar that the Annual Budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2023, which has been submitted by the Mayor and approved by the City Council, is hereby adopted, the totals of the said budget and the Mayor’s division thereof being as follows:

EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENTS

General Operating	\$ 21,162,125
Capital Improvements	17,570,100
Special Revenue/Internal	4,108,759
Debt Service	4,313,372
Enterprise (Wastewater)	<u>8,540,170</u>
Total 2023 Budget	\$ 55,694,526

Dated this 5th day of December, 2022

/s/ Marv Calvin
Mayor

/s/ Judy Thompson

Attest: City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-154

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PURSUIT OF ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE
FUNDING FOR 19th AVENUE TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS**

Motion By: Nelsen Seconded By: Asmus

Whereas the Minnesota Active Transportation Infrastructure Program provides grant funding for the construction of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure projects that will improve transportation options and reduce vehicle miles traveled;

Whereas the program was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 2018 and is defined in Minnesota Statute 174.38;

Whereas in this funding cycle the Minnesota Department of Transportation will award \$3.5 million in state funding to selected projects that will effectively address safety concerns, equity, and engage the community in project development;

Whereas the proposed project will enter construction during the 2023/4 calendar year and will have a useful life of over 10 years;

Whereas the City of Willmar, as the applicant is prepared to execute the grant agreement and ensure the proposed project meets all project milestones and deadlines;

Whereas the need to enhance trail interconnectivity has been identified in both the city's comprehensive plan and the parks and recreation master plan;

Whereas 19th Ave SE features important businesses schools and parks that lack connection to the city-wide trail network;

Whereas the proposed multiuse trail running along 19th Ave SW would provide greater trail connectivity while meeting the recreational and transportation needs of all residents.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, the Willmar City Council hereby approves the City of Willmar's pursuit of Active Transportation funds for the 19th Avenue Trail Improvements;

Therefore, Be It Further Resolved, the City Council recognizes that Active Transportation grants are paid on a reimbursable basis and agrees to finance the total project cost before submitting a request for reimbursement;

Therefore, Be It Further Resolved, the City of Willmar is committed to the development and construction of the proposed project in a timeframe that supports grant agreement requirements;

Therefore, Be It Further Resolved, the City of Willmar is committed to providing long-term maintenance of the new infrastructure installed with the proposed project.

Dated this 5th day of December, 2022

/s/ Marv Calvin
Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Judy Thompson
City Clerk